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By: Danielle Johnson Danielle Johnson

In the event that this paper is late filed and a necessary Petition for an Extension of Time is not concurrently filed herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-1529.

GK-OEH-119/500814.20020

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants:	Peter CZERNEY, et al.	Group:	1625
Serial No.:	10/031,741	Examiner:	R.K. Covington
Filed:	January 22, 2002	Customer No.:	026418
For:	STABLE NEAR-INFRARED (NIR) MARKER DYES BASED ON BENZOPYRILIUM-POLYMETHINES		

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action mailed April 8, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper;

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.

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